



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 1, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Flanagan".

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Grant Programs for Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education

The Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit received funding to support programming called Project AWARE related to advancing wellness and resilience in education that increases awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The funding allows the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to work with SAMHSA, three local education agencies and their communities, and with the Departments of Community Health and Human Services to fund projects focused on increasing awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth and providing mental health professional development for school personnel and other adults that work with youth. These projects require a coordinated approach, driven by state-level leadership and facilitated through community partnerships.

Grants established using these funds will allow full participation of school and agency partners and the necessary support to carry out all objectives under MDE's cooperative agreement with SAMHSA.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for Grant Programs for Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education, as attached to the Superintendent's Memorandum dated December 1, 2014.

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## **MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Criteria for Grant Programs for Project AWARE to Advance Wellness and Resilience in Education**

The State Board of Education (SBE) has adopted as its mission, "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

### **SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

Grants distributed under the Cooperative Agreement from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and Project AWARE support the SBE's mission by building the capacity of Michigan intermediate and local school districts to develop and implement sustainable program activities that increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth and provide mental health professional development for school personnel and other adults that work with youth. Program activities are expected to reduce chronic absenteeism and dropouts while improving school connectedness and academic achievement.

Grants will also support the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE's) Priority 1 focus on closing achievement gaps by implementing capacity-building strategies to reduce disparities in both health outcomes and academic achievement, and providing additional support for populations disproportionately affected.

Grants distributed under these programs also support the following SBE policies:

Model Code of Student Conduct – 8/2014  
Policy on Reducing Student Suspension and Expulsions – 5/2014  
Integrating Mental Health in Schools Policy – 2/2010  
Policies on Bullying – 11/2010  
Model Anti-Bullying Policy – 11/2010  
Comprehensive School Health Education – 6/2004  
Coordinated School Health Programs to Support Academic Achievement – 9/2003  
Statewide Safe School Choice Policy – 4/2003  
Creating Effective Learning Environments – 12/2000  
Safe Schools – 5/2000

## **PURPOSE/BACKGROUND OF GRANT**

Type of Grant Program:

- ☒ New                      ☐ Continuing  
☒ Competitive           ☐ Formula               ☐ Legislatively Designated

The Michigan Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit was among one of eleven states to be awarded the competitive "Now is the Time" Project AWARE grant from SAMHSA. The program received \$9,680,233 for five years to build capacity of state and local education agencies, increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, and provide professional development for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth. The Michigan Departments of Education, Community Health, and Human Services will partner to convene the Michigan State Management Team with stakeholders from state and local levels. The Michigan Project AWARE program supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan of activities, services, and strategies to decrease youth violence and promote healthy development of children and youth.

The project includes programs at three Michigan intermediate schools districts (ISDs) that will serve as pilot sites. The selected districts and their respective communities are areas with significant need, but they also possess capacity through existing structures and current state-funded projects, as well as a strong commitment to the project. The three ISDs, Jackson, Kent, and Oakland, represent unique structures and community composition.

A number of grants will be distributed by the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit to support this five-year cooperative agreement.

## **CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved: n/a

Source of Criteria:

- ☐ A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation      ☒ C. Proposed by Staff  
☐ B. State Law or Rules                      ☐ D. Defined in MDE's Approved  
Grant Application to the Funder

The main criteria upon which a sub-grantee organization will be selected are the following:

- Must be a non-governmental organization, state/local health department, school or district entity, and/or institutes of higher education.
- Must assign staff and/or consultants to support grant-related efforts.
- Has the appropriate knowledge, expertise, and/or skills.

- Is able to reach at-risk student populations directly or through relevant parent populations or primary health care systems.
- Provides programming that supports one or more of the above listed SBE policies.
- Is able to complete the project in the required timeline.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED**

Initial grants will be awarded to organizations designated in MDE's application to SAMHSA. Additional awards may be made as needed that support program objectives to eligible applicants that are non-governmental organizations, state/local health departments, school or district entities, or institutes of higher education.

Target populations are the students within the three designated communities.

### **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

The amount of available SAMHSA funding for grant awards varies each year and is estimated to range from \$1,275,000 - \$2,000,000 per year for five years.

### **STATUTE**

Project AWARE State Program cooperative agreements are authorized under Section 520A of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. This announcement addresses Healthy People 2020 Mental Health and Mental Disorders Topic Area HP 2020-MHMD.

### **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

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Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs Unit  
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